



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY
MARK J. SCHOUTEN, DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release:
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Contact:
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Iowa Task Force to Focus on Curbing Prescription Drug Abuse

DES MOINES – Iowa's drug policy coordinator today announced the formation of a special task force to address the increasing incidence of prescription drug abuse.

"The goal of the task force is to define the nature and scope of the nation's fastest growing substance abuse problem as it relates to Iowa communities and recommend steps to reduce its impact on Iowans," said Mark Schouten, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. "Task force recommendations will be considered by our office in presenting an Iowa Prescription Abuse Reduction plan later this year."

The task force is made up of 32 Iowa physicians, pharmacists, other health care professionals, substance abuse prevention and treatment providers, regulators, law enforcement officials and others (see list below).

"Modern science has given us very effective medicines to treat pain and other ailments, and medicine abuse is the exception to the rule," said Schouten. "Still, prescription drug abuse is putting the health and safety of Iowans at risk, and we want to get in front of this emerging issue before it becomes an even bigger problem."

Task force members are expected to look at areas such as education, properly securing and disposing of medicines, prescription monitoring and enforcement. Task force members are scheduled to convene at least monthly, between now and November, beginning with an initial meeting Tuesday, August 9, in Des Moines.

"We appreciate this distinctive group of subject matter experts, from a variety of professional backgrounds, working together to tackle this complicated but important issue," said Schouten. We are also collecting data and other information, and encourage all Iowans with input on this subject to contact our office directly at 515-725-0300 or becky.bell@iowa.gov."

For more information on the Iowa Prescription Abuse Reduction project, go to the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy website at: www.iowa.gov/odcp.

(Note: Tuesday's meeting is 9:00-Noon at the Iowa Department of Public Safety Building, 215 East 7th St., Rm. 125, in Des Moines. Members of the news media planning to attend are asked to contact Dale Woolery at 515-725-0310 in advance of the meeting.)

Iowa Prescription Abuse Reduction Task Force

Gloria Bernstein
Hy-Vee Pharmacy & PMP Advisory Council Member-Des Moines

Dr. Elaine Berry
Atlantic

Doug Besch
Walgreens Pharmacy-Waterloo

Mark Bowden
Iowa Board of Medicine-Des Moines

Wendy Dishman
Iowa Division of Inspections & Appeals-Des Moines

Kevin Frampton (Kevin Winker)
Iowa DPS, Division of Narcotics Enforcement-Des Moines

Dr. Julia Goodin (John Kraemer)
Iowa State Medical Examiner-Ankeny

Heidi Goodman (Kate Walton)
Iowa Medical Society-West Des Moines

Sherry Green
National Alliance of Model State Drug Laws-Santa Fe, New Mexico

Jay Hansen
Prairie Ridge Treatment Center-Mason City

Lorinda Inman
Iowa Board of Nursing-Des Moines

Lloyd Jessen
Iowa Pharmacy Board-Des Moines

Linda Kalin
Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center-Sioux City

Dr. Drew Lewis
Des Moines University Clinic-Des Moines

Leah McWilliams
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association-Des Moines

Eric Nation
Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force-Newton

Susan Parker (Pam Smith)
Iowa Medicaid-Des Moines

Mark Richards
Richards Pharmacy-Des Moines

Deb Robles
Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield-Des Moines

Cheri Rockhold-Schmit
Medicap Pharmacy-Ames

Cindy Schmell
Iowa Insurance Division-Des Moines

Mark Schouten (Dale Woolery)
Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy-Des Moines

Nicole Schultz
Iowa Pharmacy Association-Urbandale

Dr. Dana Simon
Mercy Center for Pain Medicine-Des Moines

Kathy Stone (DeAnn Decker)
Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Behavioral Health-Des Moines

Scott Collier (Tom Cox)
U.S. DEA-St. Louis/Des Moines

Dan Voogt
Polk County Attorney's Office-Des Moines

Melissa Walker
Area Substance Abuse Council-Cedar Rapids

Dr. Dennis Weis (David Kaptain)
Powell Chemical Dependency Center-Des Moines

Kelly Williams (Brian Black)
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise-Des Moines

Pam Williams
Iowa Academy of Family Physicians-Des Moines

Chris Wilson
Johnston Community Schools-Johnston

